

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): Earlier, the site identified at Chakan in Pune was not acceptable to Ministry of Defence from operational point of view with reference to existing Defence airfield at Lohengaon in Pune. In the month of October 2006, a team comprising officials from Airports Authority of India (AAI), Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) carried out preliminary site inspection of an alternate site near Rajguru Nagar, 6 K.M. north of the initially proposed site at Chakan. This site is acceptable to the Ministry of Defence.

MIDC has been requested to provide the meteorological data of the new site in coordination with Indian meteorological Department. After receipt of these details, a technical study will be carried out and thereafter appropriate decision will be taken by the Government in the matter.

Introduction of airbus service in North East

2115 SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Airlines cannot maintain its schedule for want of sufficient number of aircrafts and pilots;
- (b) what steps are being taken to overcome this problem;
- (c) whether the services of airbuses will be increased in the North East; and
- (d) if so, the details of the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The schedule of Indian Airlines is drawn based on aircraft and crew availability, market forces like demand and supply and capacity deployment by the competitors, seasonality, route dispersal guidelines of Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), other operational constraints and its commercial viability. However, changes in the schedule of operations are sometimes necessitated due to availability of resources on a particular day. Indian Airlines has sufficient number of pilots to cater to the present schedule requirement. Additional aircraft are being inducted for introducing/increasing operations.

(c) and (d) Indian Airlines plans to replace the operations of Boeing-737, including those operating in the North-East, with A-319/A-320 aircraft in a phased manner as and when more number of A-319/A-320 join its fleet.

Relaxation in carrying of liquid products by passengers

†2116. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state;

(a) the date when the restriction was imposed regarding carrying liquid products by the passengers in the planes and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government are considering to give relaxation in this regard;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the arrangements being made to see that there is no misuse of the relaxation given by Government regarding carrying the liquid products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Instructions were issued by the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) on 11.8.2006 imposing restrictions regarding carrying of liquid products by the passengers in their hand baggages or on their person. This was done following the terror alert in United Kingdom wherein terrorist outfits devised a new *modus operandi* to smuggle in components of an Improvised Explosive Device(IED), in liquid form, on board as hand baggage to evade normal airport screening procedures.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Limited relaxation has been given to facilitate the passengers, without jeopardising security.

(d) To check misuse of the relaxation, BCAS has issued instructions allowing passengers to carry liquid items/gels/pastes or items of similar consistency in one clear transparent resealable one litre size plastic bag separately, in small quantities required for the duration of journey. Each item should, however, not exceed 100 ml in quantity. The contents of the plastic bag must fit comfortably in it and will be subjected to prescribed screening and security checks.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.